

A1 For this reason, data for enabling such modified operation is preferably stored in the memory device 11.

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**Page 8, third full paragraph**

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A2 Moreover, it is preferable to store, in the memory device 11, data for inhibiting an ejecting operation of nozzles connected to a flow passage of the recording head A to which the maintenance cartridge is mounted.

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**Paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9**

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A3 Furthermore, when a set of an ink cartridge, a recording head A and a cap member is independent of another set, it is preferable to store, in the memory device 11, data for disabling an ejecting operation of nozzles and an ink filling operation with respect to the recording head A, to which the maintenance cartridge is mounted.

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**Page 9, first full paragraph**

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A4 When the maintenance cartridge is replaced with an ordinary ink cartridge in response to this direction for proper use, an amount of ink to be filled into the recording head A is adjusted according to time period during which the maintenance cartridge is attached thereto. That is, in the case that the time period, during which the maintenance cartridge is attached thereto, is short, an amount of air dissolved in ink in the flow passage of the recording head A, to which the maintenance cartridge is attached, is small. However, in the case that the time period, during which the maintenance cartridge is attached thereto, is long, a large amount of air is dissolved in

the ink in the flow passage. Thus, new ink contained in the ink cartridge, which is newly attached to the recording head A, is sucked therefrom to the extent that the ink in the flow passage is replaced with the new ink sucked therefrom.

**Page 10, second full paragraph**

In this embodiment, when the ink supply needle B is inserted, the cylindrical portion 6a of the plug element 4 is expanded gradually depending on the inserted position of the ink supply needle B. Thus, bubbles are prevented from being forced into the recording head A due to a piston-effect of the plug element when an ink cartridge is replaced with the maintenance cartridge.

**Paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11**

Moreover, in the case that a plurality of protruded rib portions 6c are formed on the inner surface of the cylindrical portion 6c in such a manner as to extend in the direction of movement of the ink supply needle B as illustrated in FIG. 7(b), air can be discharged through the gap defined by the ink supply needle B and the protruded rib portions 6c during the process of inserting the ink supply needle B. Thus, air is prevented from being forced into the recording head A. Simultaneously, the ink inlet hole C can be reliably sealed by the taper portion 6b.